

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

(Legislative Day of Wednesday, February 7, 2024)

#### *Routine Proceedings, pages S463–S564*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-six bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3767–3792, and S. Res. 545–553. **Pages S494–96**

#### **Measures Passed:**

***Federal Agency Performance Act:*** Senate passed S. 709, to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S487–89**

***National School Counseling Week:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 548, designating the week of February 5 through 9, 2024, as “National School Counseling Week.” **Page S489**

***National FFA Week:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 549, expressing support for the designation of February 17 through February 24, 2024, as “National FFA Week”, recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of globally conscious leaders who will change the world, and celebrating the 10th anniversary of the “Give the Gift of Blue” program, which has donated more than 17,000 of the iconic FFA blue jackets to FFA members in need. **Page S489**

***Career and Technical Education Month:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 550, supporting the goals and ideals of “Career and Technical Education Month”. **Page S489**

***Black History Month:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 551, celebrating Black History Month. **Page S489**

***Authorize Testimony and Representation:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 552, to authorize testimony and representation in *People of the State of Michigan v. Berden, et al.* **Page S489**

***Honoring the Life of Former Senator Jean A. Carnahan:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 553, honoring the life of Jean A. Carnahan, former Senator for the State of Missouri. **Page S489**

#### **Measures Considered:**

**RELIEVE Act—Agreement:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program. **Pages S463–86**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 67 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. 41), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate upon reconsideration agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Pages S463–64**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 12 noon, on Friday, February 9, 2024; and that all time during adjournment, recess, Leader remarks, and Morning Business count post-cloture. **Page S564**

#### **Appointments:**

***Senate National Security Working Group for the 118th Congress:*** The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appointed the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 118th Congress: Senators Reed (Administrative Co-Chair), Menendez (Co-Chair), Durbin (Co-Chair), Cardin (Co-Chair), Casey, Duckworth, Sinema, Warnock, and Padilla. **Page S489**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Jeffrey Prescott, of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S486–87**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Sarah Elizabeth Baker, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

Emily Edenshaw, of Alaska, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2028.

Margaret Mary FitzPatrick, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2030.

Deborah Willis, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2028.

Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Dena M. Coggins, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

John E. Richardson, of Alabama, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of four years.

Eric C. Schulte, of South Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota.

Camela C. Theeler, of South Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota.

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**Messages from the House:**

**Page S491**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S491**

**Executive Communications:**

**Pages S491–94**

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

**Page S494**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S496–97**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S497–S503**

**Additional Statements:**

**Page S491**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S503–63**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

**Pages S563–64**

**Privileges of the Floor:**

**Page S564**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—41)

**Page S464**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Jean A. Carnahan, former Senator for the State of Missouri, in accordance with S. Res. 553, at 6:18 p.m., until 12 noon on Friday, February 9, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S564.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Cara L. Abercrombie, of Virginia, Aprille Joy Ericsson, of New York, and Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, each to be an Assistant Secretary, and Douglas Craig Schmidt, of Tennessee, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, all of the Department of Defense.

### FSOC ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council Annual Report to Congress, including S. 3441, to prevent Foreign Terrorist Organizations and their financial enablers, whether in currency or digital assets, from accessing financial and other institutions of the United States, and S. 3554, to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to provide the Financial Stability Oversight Council with duties regarding artificial intelligence in the financial sector, after receiving testimony from Janet L. Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1939, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

### LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the administration's pause on liquefied natural gas (LNG) export approvals and the Department of Energy's process for assessing LNG export applications, after receiving testimony from David Turk, Deputy Secretary of Energy; Charlie Riedl, Center for LNG, Washington, D.C.; and James Watson, Eurogas, Brussels, Belgium.

### A.I. AND HEALTH CARE

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine Artificial Intelligence and Health Care, focusing on promise and pitfalls, after receiving testimony from Peter Shen, Siemens Healthineers, Washington, D.C.; Mark Sendak, Health AI Partnership, Durham, North Carolina; Michelle M. Mello, Stanford University, Stanford, California; Ziad Obermeyer, University of California, Berkeley; and

Katherine Baicker, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Dafna Hochman Rand, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Donna Ann Welton, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; and Stephan A. Lang, of Virginia, to be United States Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, with the rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the cost of prescription drugs, after receiving testimony from Joaquin Duato, Johnson and Johnson, New Brunswick, New Jersey; Robert M. Davis, Merck and Co., Inc., Rahway, New Jersey; Chris Boerner, Bristol Myers Squibb, Princeton, New Jersey; Peter Maybarduk, Public Citizen, Washington, D.C.; Tahir Amin, Initiative for Medicines, Access and Knowledge, New York, New York; and Darius N. Lakdawalla, University of Southern California Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, Los Angeles, California.

### LEGISLATION

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 2385, to provide access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water on Tribal lands, S. 2868, to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that Community, S. 3022, to amend the Indian Health

Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, S. 2796, to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and S. 3230, to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, after receiving testimony from Melanie Anne Egorin, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation; Kathryn Isom-Clause, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy and Economic Development for Indian Affairs; Manuel Heart, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, Colorado; Douglas G. Lankford, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami; Robert L. Larsen, Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, Morton; Victoria Kitcheyan, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Winnebago; and Angie Wilson, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Health Center, Reno, Nevada.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Amir H. Ali, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Melissa R. DuBose, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, who was introduced by Senator Reed, Sunil R. Harjani, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Robert J. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, who was introduced by Senators Stabenow and Peters, and Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, who was introduced by Senator Warner and Kaine, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

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## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

The House was not in session today. The House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 9, 2024.

### *Committee Meetings*

No hearings were held.

### *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

**NEW PUBLIC LAWS**

*(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D90)*

S. 3427, to extend the authority to provide employees of the United States Secret Service with overtime pay beyond other statutory limitations. Signed on February 6, 2024. (Public Law 118–38)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9, 2024**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

**House**

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

12 noon, Friday, February 9

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Friday, February 9

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 815, RELIEVE Act (the legislative vehicle for the National Security Supplemental), post-cloture.

If all post-cloture debate time is used, Senate will vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 7 p.m.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.



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